

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2006.

Of the original claims 1-110 of the present application, claims 15-18, 30-56, 58-73, 75, 77-91, 93, 95-108 and 110 had been canceled, and claim 14 had been amended, by a preliminary amendment of April 12, 2005.

Claims 1-14, 19-29, 57, 74, 76, 92, 94 and 109 were under examination in the present Office Action, dated January 19, 2006. In said action the Examiner has determined that:

Claims 76, 92, and 94 were objected to.

Claims 24, 25, 27, and 74 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 – second paragraph.

Claims 1-3, 8-14, 22-29, and 57 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b), as anticipated by Hiramatsu et al.

Claim 109 is allowed.

Claims 4 - 7 and 19 - 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 74 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112.

Claims 76, 92, and 94 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the examiner's objection.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 76, 92, and 94 were objected to. These have been rewritten to overcome the examiner's objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112 – SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 24, 25, 27, and 74 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 – second paragraph. These have been rewritten to overcome the examiner's rejection under 35 USC § 112 – second paragraph.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 8-14, 22-29, and 57 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b), as anticipated by Hiramatsu et al.

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Applicant has considered the Examiner's rejection.

Respectfully, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Nonetheless, in order to obtain an early allowance, Applicant has amended the claims to put all claims in allowable condition.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that Claims 4 - 7 and 19 - 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus the claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 5 has been re-written in independent form as amended Claim 1.

Claims 4-7 have been made independent.

Claim 74, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112, has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112.

Claims 76, 92, and 94, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection, have been amended to overcome the objection.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin Moynihan

Registration No. 40,338

Date: July 18, 2006

Encl.:

Petition for extension of time (3 Months)

Additional Claims Fee